

Cold (DWP) Water on Valley's Hopes

THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER ABRUPTLY REFUSES TO SIGN THE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT, AND WILL DRAW UP AN ALTERNATIVE; A QUESTION OF "GOOD FAITH" CONCERNS INYO REPS

FOLLOWING MONTHS OF TIME-CONSUMING AND COSTLY NEGOTIATIONS WITH INYO COUNTY, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power last week refused to sign a final draft of an agreement to establish a water resources management program in Owens Valley.

The DWP's refusal to accept the agreement dashed the hopes of county officials who had believed until the last moment that Inyo County and the DWP had finally reached a settlement of many of the issues in the ongoing valley water fight, and once again arose in the minds of the Inyo

representatives the question of whether DWP had been negotiating in good faith since the negotiations had started several months ago.

Meanwhile, the DWP announced tersely that it will draw up another agreement more to its liking and present it for signing by Inyo officials. A segment of the original dealing with "goals and objectives" was the new complaint of DWP and its announced reason for not signing.

In the "good faith" question, Inyo County Administrator John K. Smith admitted that the only evidence the county has is the fact that "they do attend the meetings," but Smith and others retained some hopes. "If I didn't believe it," said Smith, "I'd blow my cool and quit right now." (See WATER ISSUE, Page 9)

The INYO COUNTY NEWS-LETTER

A NEWS ALTERNATIVE - EASTERN SIERRA NEWS SERVICE

Compiled by John Heston and Benett Kessler

GENERAL CIRCULATION
Published Weekly

"PASSEOVER": Its
Message, Page 7

Week of
April 17, 1978

BEHAVIOR

HOSTILITY AND KIDS

HEALTH WORKERS AND POLICE ATTEMPT
TO SEEK OUT INYO'S CHILD ABUSERS
AND THE ROOTS OF A GROWING PROBLEM

IF THE PRESENT-DAY SPECULATIONS OF THE PSYCHO-socio-analysts prove valid then by analogy the post-Edenic Cain becomes as much the victim as he was the perpetrator in what plainly was the first recorded case of "abuse." In pursuing the hypothesis further, it probably all stemmed from Adam's guilt, and although it is not recorded, maybe Adam - or Eve - took an occasional punitive swat at Cain who then passed the family hostilities on to Abel who was the last in the line of the family pecking order.

Far-out reasoning? Seen and weighed in the light of statistics on "abuse" - of children, wives, husbands, other people, and even family pets - maybe not so far-out after all. Behavioral studies tend to indicate that if we ourselves were beaten or abused, then we tend to pass that abuse along to others in a chain of guilt and hostilities that often span several generations.

Despite advances in many areas of psychology and sociology, the problem seems to be getting worse, not better, this due probably to the increasing complexities and frustrations of modern living, and the growing demands placed on the individual - especially the individual(s) on whom family responsibility rests.

"Abuse" of one person by another is more likely the rule rather than the exception, here and elsewhere - a continuation of a general human condition, or, "man's inhumanity to man."

Even as the reader digests such thoughts, somewhere in Inyo County at any given moment somebody is either yelling at somebody else or beating up on somebody else. That is not to say that Inyo is any worse than any place else although Inyo's isolated areas lend themselves quite well to closet hostilities that might sooner be detected if there were more people around to hear, and see, the cries and scars of the victims. The "records" of abuse, like the "records" of rape and many other crimes, probably amount to little more than a percentage sampling of a much greater problem.

"Sure," says an Inyo County detective, "There are a lot of cases not reported. It's

(See ABUSERS, Page 2)

NEWS BRIEFS

THE RANCHERS GO BEGGING

NO SYMPATHY FOR COWBOYS; INYO'S TOP TAX-PAYERS; SOGGE'S MAIL MISSILES; WOMEN VS. JARVIS; AND A GOOD/BAD YEAR -FOR SKUNKS

NATURALLY, WE DON'T LIKE IT," said Jack Tatum, president of Inyo County's DWP-dependent Cattlemen's Association, but it seemed last week that there was very little that Tatum or anyone else could do about DWP's latest effort to bring the valley's cowboys in to line. DWP announced without warning two weeks ago that the cattlemen's grazingland leases would be cut to one year. DWP spokesmen explained innocently that the city of Los Angeles could no longer make "long-term agreements" while there was litigation over groundwater pumping and DWP's laughably inadequate environmental report. To the cattlemen that translated into plain English: "Pull your county officials off our backs and DWP may give you enough grazing land and water to survive." It was not the first time that DWP had used pressure tactics on the cattlemen. Added Tatum: "We don't have much choice. It's a year until they settle with the county. Hopefully, when they do settle, we'll get our five-year leases back." The cattlemen were not above doing some person-to-person pleading for their leases, and they visited DWP's top boss Louis Winnard with the naive hope of "getting some help and understanding." Winnard and others in the DWP hierarchy understood all too well. No one except the cattlemen apparently was surprised to

(See NEWS BRIEFS, Page 4)

ABUSERS, Continued

a close-knit community and it is more difficult for those who are required to report abuse to do so (the doctors, teachers, etc.)" In other words, in a small community, as compared with the large community, we are less anonymous and may have to live for a long time with the nearby neighbor we "tell on." "You're dealing," says the detective, Monte Yancey, "with children and relatives and with friends who don't want to get involved."

But in spite of all that about 20 cases of serious abuse surfaced for the records last year, most of these turning up in the county's mental health program. There it was discovered - to the surprise of practically no one - that a rather great number of Inyo children are quite literally tortured, mentally, emotionally or physically. So far, no deaths have occurred, not at least that anyone knows about.

Inyo County, as a case-study sampling area, fits few of the known statistical categories. A place of sparsely scattered population, it is, for instance, thought to be an ideal place for abusers to give expression to their guilt and anger, and in fact there may be a great deal of "people abuse" here. "We should have a high rate of abuse," says Tim Needham, a county psychologist, "much more than is reported." Needham says the doctors look for such cases, "but they're not finding them." In explanation to that, the detective, Yancey, suggests that "Some parents beat their children with objects that don't leave marks," or hit them "above the hair line."

Where is abuse most likely to be found?

Abuse habits, as Needham calls the phenomena, are passed from one generation to another. "People who have been abused, tend to abuse," he says. It is not a habit confined to any particular socio-economic group, but there is a prevalence in the lower strata of society. "These people," says Needham, "have more stress, more money problems, and no education."

Usually, when "abuse" is mentioned, it is linked almost automatically to become *child abuse*. That is not, as many wives and girl friends and even husbands and boy friends will sadly attest, always the case. "Battered wives" have increasingly come to national attention and, more recently, even battered *husbands*. Social and psychological studies show that they are in fact about evenly divided, although the cases of battered husbands seldom surface because most men are embarrassed to admit to anyone that they allow, or are unable to prevent, their wives' attacks on them. The comic picture of the wife armed with a rolling pin becomes far less laughable viewed in the light of a serious concussion, particularly a concussion left untreated because of an embarrassed ego. Nor or wives above reaching for a knife or gun to vent their (often) menopausal furies.

Secrecy and protective cover provide the secure environment in which the hostile and frustrated operate. Even now on the books of the Inyo courts is the case of a father who, over a period of years, has sexually abused a young daughter, beating her, or

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threatening to beat her, if she revealed his secret. He went so far as to tell her that she would "break up the family" if she told, apparently a psychological threat that to her posed a real threat. But there were other family members living out of town, and, on a visit, the girl poured out her story. The sheriff was called, the father was arrested, the girl turned over to a foster home - confirming, of course, her worst fears. Since the case came to light, more was learned about the man. Yancey said, significantly, that the man himself had been the victim of child abuse, years before.

In another current case, a 14-year-old girl was victimized by a step-mother. In this case (and in many, many more) alcohol played a part. The step-mother beat the girl and denied her access to relatives from the natural mother's side of the family. But luckily, as in the case of many such incidences, girls go to school. It was there that the story came out and the school principal, duty-bound, notified the authorities. With cooperation from the girls' relatives, she was removed from the home.

Separation from a problem does not automatically solve the problem, however. And alcohol plus guilt plus hostility will probably lead to further outbursts, aimed perhaps at the husband, an acquaintance, a family pet, a neighbor - or whoever inopportunely winds up as a target coincidentally with the woman's next aggressive outburst.

Are the victims themselves guilty?

Quite definitely yes, in many cases. Very often there is found a masochistic streak in an individual, one that will lead him or her to intentionally provocative acts which the individual full-well knows will bring instant punishment. Some people, it seems, *want to be abused, beaten, hurt - punished*. Of these it can truthfully be said "They asked for it," but such cases are rare, especially among the children. Kids will sometimes break the rules to get attention, however, and heaven help

(See ABUSERS, Page 10)

» » NOTES FROM B.K. « «

MORE OIL COMPANY RIP-OFFS: If you think the "fuel crisis" and its jacked-up gasoline prices were bad, just read the pump now. The top producers claim their new price hikes are to cover the cost of "research and development." Don't believe a word of it, we're still getting the same old gasoline we've been getting for years. Did you know that every time there is a one-cent



BENNETT KESSLER

increase in gasoline prices there is a total of about one billion dollars in increased revenues for the big companies? Even though the producers are complaining a lot, they're still mailing out annual reports to stockholders that indicate greater profits than ever before. Maybe Washington should start enforcing the anti-trust laws and then the public might be more agreeable to relaxing some controls. It costs less to produce a gallon of gasoline than it does to produce a gallon of distilled water and deliver it. But you can count on it, there will be additional price hikes before January, 1979.

RECENT POLITICO-VISITOR KEN MADDY and his televised "I can beat Jerry Brown" line is paying off. Last week he jumped 11 points in the poll and Ed Davis and Evelle Younger are starting to sweat. Why are the Republicans laying out so much cash for their boys this year? They think Brown is vulnerable and just might be beaten this year, and if Brown goes down, the GOP will be in better shape for 1980. The little fellow, what's-his-name, from San Diego, could be the hardest-working and most effective of the lot, but the boys in the smoke-filled rooms may be letting him die on the vine. And who's the *real* brain behind the Maddy campaign? - A fellow who produces television commercials, Dick Tschudin. Tschudin says Maddy is just another product to be marketed and for the television people that's easy - if you've got the money.

VERY PLEASANT PEOPLE DEPT: Andrew Kirk, an employee of the county's welfare department. Andrew is a sometime-organist at Pioneer Methodist Church at Independence and he recently volunteered to assume responsibilities of the church's youth-activities program; and with what he knows in human relations, odds are he'll be good at it.

WATCH OUT FOR THOSE SOMETHING-FOR-NOTHING OFFERS that are in almost every mail. Latest gimmick is the "*\$109,000 Club*" that would have us all believe that by sending a \$30 membership fee there are no further requirements on our part but to sit back and wait for the money to flow in. Don't believe a word of it. A few others fell for the last mail promotion, that of the "*Columbia Research Corporation*," which advertised a three-day Las Vegas holiday for two - for \$15.95. Columbia's Raymond Anderson has not been seen much since the promotion began, and sheriff's offices in more than one state are looking for him.

BIG, SPLASHY BASH OF THE MONTH: The post-tournament party held for the chess players at the

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Statham mansion in Lone Pine. But the chess players almost got lost in a crowd that numbered around 200. The drinks were flowing, but tournament winner Bent Larsen (Denmark) was high on something else: a check for twelve thousand dollars, top prize in the play. Who was at the party? Darn near everybody.

IN THE MAIL: A LETTER FROM HENRY RAUB, who gives us his research statistics on the new candy craze, "*Pop Rocks*." Writes Raub: "Did you figure out the cost per pound of these 'Pop Rocks' you wrote about in your April 10 column in the *NEWS-LETTER*? Unless my math is wrong, they cost you a little over \$11 per pound. I was given a 15-cent packet and certainly discovered it as something new in the way of a mouth sensation. Somehow managed to creep under my upper plate and first thing I knew there was a minor explosion that blasted my upper plate loose from its moorings." (Okay, folks, last week I suggested calling your broker and buying General Foods which owns "*Pop Rocks*." But if "*Pop Rocks*" has this kind of effect, then I'd suggest, while the market is still down, investing in *Fix-O-Dent*.)

PRIMAL SCREAM REPORT: You may not remember it, not consciously anyway, but your first breath was accompanied by a glare of lights, sterile-white walls, a slap on the bottom, and some idiot holding you upside down. No wonder most of us were traumatized early and grew up hostile. We learn now that Inyo's hospitals want to change all that: softened lights, changeover in the decor, and the first slap softened to a gentle tap on the feet while Baby lies on Mom's tummy. Some people are talking about allowing Dad in the delivery room; it has become a popular thing, although I have yet to figure out why. Isn't he around underfoot and getting in the way all the time anyway?

TIRED OF TUTANKHA-MANIA? A lot of people seem unable to grasp the idea that the Los Angeles County Museum of Art has something to offer besides the trendy Tut show. Opened recently: Ceramic Sculptor Ken Price's "*Happy's Curios*," the result of his five-year experiment with pottery; also the gallery's new acquisitions, including a remarkable piece, *Corpus*, a 16th Century Crucifixion work that brings to mind Michelangelo and Cellini.

GOOD NEWS: Re-opened for the season, Paradise Lodge Restaurant north of Bishop on Lower Rock Creek. Dinner 5:30-10:00 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. If you want the best service, call for reservations. We had dinner out there at a private party last week - a pleasant change. Although prime rib's not my dish, it looked great.

WHAT THEY'RE READING THESE DAYS: Well, for one thing, the twenty titles in "*A New Library of the Supernatural*," a wild collection, 20 authors, telling it all about witches, strange cults, cosmic influence and, presumably, the "ghosties and ghoulies and things that go bump in the night;" "*My Mother, Myself*" by Nancy Fri-

(See NOTES FROM B.K., Page 4)

NOTES FROM B.K., Continued

day; "The Homeowners' Survival Kit," one of those handy tomes that covers most of the bases on home-owning and how to save big \$\$; the "1978 Thirty-second Annual Anniversary of Gun Digest," which may in fact be as it claims, the world's greatest gun book, but which turns up as a surprise as a popular library item; Jean Anderson's "The Green Thumb Preservation Guide" that tells the kitchen-body all about canning, pickling, home grown vegetables, etc. (Another dark horse if you ask me); and a couple of fiction pieces, "The Devil on Horseback" by Victoria Holt who Holts forth on 18th Century France and throws in a little boudoir romance and a little revolution; and Sylvester ("Rocky") Stallone's "Paradise Alley," the tale of three brothers after the second World War, their poverty and what they did (and did not do) about it.

LET'S CLEAN UP OUR MOUTHS BACK THERE, Y'ALL! One of the senior citizens' bus drivers, Pat Carpentier of Lone Pine had asked the Senior Citizens' Advisory Council how to solve "the problem of profanity occurring on senior citizens busses." Pat was advised to take the matter to the directors. Still no permanent solutions.

WILL SOMEBODY PLEASE REMOVE THAT CALF CARCASS that's been smelling-up the atmosphere just above Sawmill Creek campground? It's been there long enough to pollute the creek, and none of the "official" agencies seem inclined to do anything about it.

HAPPY BLENDING OF HISTORY AND THEATER: The new play, "Zoot Suit," by Luis Valdez, opens this week at the Mark Taper Forum. It's about Los Angeles' troubles of the 1940's, the race riot of 1943, etc. Part of the house series, "New Theater for Now." Through April 30.

MORE VPP DEPT: Liz Baratti of Independence. A teener with an adult way of looking at things. Two-time winner of the Lions' essay contest. Wants to be a writer - "maybe."

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, THE BIG NATIONAL MAG, plans to cover the Hulda Crooks Mt. Whitney climb. In case you don't remember the name, she is the San Bernardino vegetarian, now past 80, that climbs every year to the top of Lone Pine's favorite mountain. Sometime this summer.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR DAVID SMITH...and our best wishes. He was part of the team of the old KINC show, "The Inyo County News," and continues from time to time to turn in a report.

...AND, MAY THE NEWS IN YOUR DAY be good news, every day...

Sincerely,

BK

learn that Winnard "didn't much care."

A BIG PINE SCHOOL TEACHER who decided to take on the county's well-entrenched school superintendent in the June election, last week geared up for the May campaign. Said the challenger, Janet Watkins: "I'm concerned about the effectiveness and efficiency of that office. They are possibly losing funds in the area of special education. From my observation, the office is not taking advantage of opportunities." Watkins' statement came quickly on the heels of a CETA investigation into the county school financial records, and the hiring records. A CETA spokesman said the financial records were "unauditable," and gave Bernasconi's office 30 days to set things right.

THE COUNTY'S DEER HUNTERS are still far from happy with the deer hunting plan proposed recently by the California Department of Fish and Game. And so, it seems, are the local members of a Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Said Committee member Bruce Ivey last week: "We oppose having to send our deer hunting applications into Sacramento. The postage expense alone would amount to \$79,820, based on the number of deer tags purchased in 1975. We feel the tags should just go in one direction." A preferred alternative for the hunters is that of tag purchases in their own area. Ivey also struck at the F&G proposal to increase the cost of tags. "The increase," he said, "will be consumed by administrative costs. Ivey and

(More NEWS BRIEFS, Page 8)

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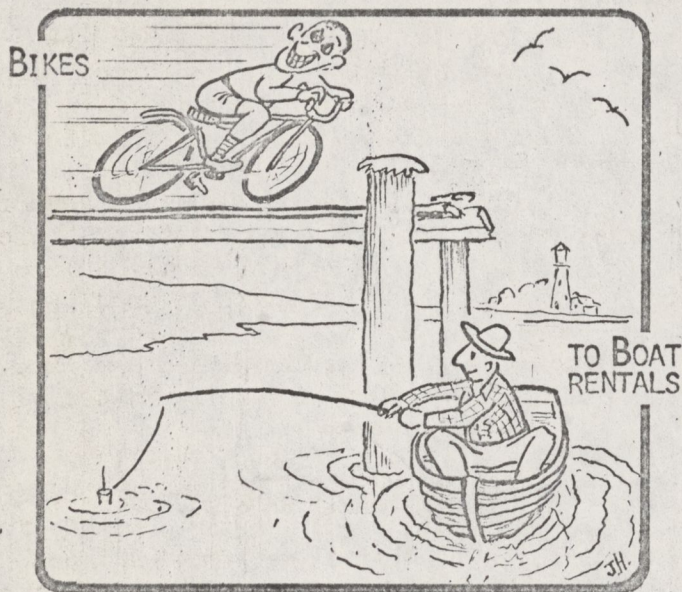


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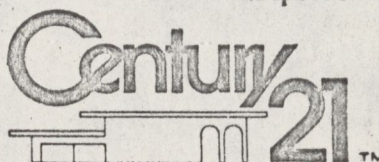
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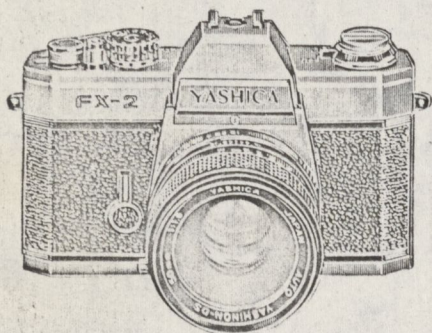
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LETTERS AND COMMENT

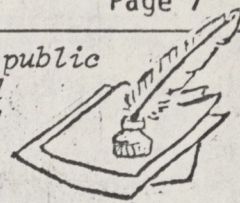
April 17, 1978

INYO COUNTY NEWS-LETTER

Page 7

NEWS-LETTER welcomes comment and letters relevant to public issues, and the editors will publish those considered

timely. Most likely to be published are those letters of 200 words or less, and those with concise viewpoints. Writers should address their statements to PO Box 531, Independence, 93526. NEWS-LETTER reminds its readers that publication of a letter in no way implies that the editors necessarily agree with its content.



PASSOVER: "MOST IMPORTANT" JEWISH HOLIDAY THIS WEEK

(Editors' Note: A major Jewish Holiday, significant historically to Jews and Christians alike, is Passover, or "Pesach." In Inyo County live several Jewish families who, though without formal affiliation with a Synagogue, nonetheless privately observe traditional Jewish holidays and maintain their ancient beliefs. In recognition of this fact, NEWS-LETTER last week contacted Temple Beth Torah, located at Sepulveda, and requested Rabbi Jerry Fisher to provide the following message explaining Passover and its significance to Jews the world over. Meanwhile, NEWS-LETTER extends to Inyo's small Jewish community its best wishes on this holiday, and reaffirms its belief that man will one day grow into a sincere reconciliation of all the world's religious differences.)

To the Editor:

Passover, the greatest and most ancient of all Jewish Festivals, will be celebrated by Jews all over the world beginning at sundown, Friday, April 21, this year. It is observed for seven days by Reform Jews, and for eight days by Conservative and Orthodox Jews.

For more than 2000 years Passover (Pesach) has been considered by Jews everywhere to be the great holiday, the festival of redemption. It is also the Jewish holiday that is richest in symbolism; for no other holiday in the Jewish calendar abounds in so many ancient and meaningful ritualistic objects, foods and ceremonies, all of which are intimately bound up with the nomadic origins of the Jewish people and their later development as a people who, very early in human history, transformed the ancient nature festivals into holidays with deep moral and religious significance.

Passover was originally a spring festival at the dawn of history when Jews were still nomadic shepherds in the wilderness. As time went by, however, it became an historic and national holiday, commemorating the deliverance of the Jewish people from their bondage in Egypt. For Jews today it mirrors a hope for freedom and equality for all mankind.

Jews everywhere celebrate Passover with a ceremonial meal called the Seder (which means "Order of Service") which takes place in most homes and in some synagogues. During the Seder the story of the Exodus is recited, songs and ceremonial prayers are performed, and the symbolical foods of Passover are eaten. The most important Passover food is Matzot, unleavened bread, called by the Jews the "Bread of Affliction;" it is unleavened as a reminder of the haste with which the Jewish people fled from Egypt (there was no time to allow the bread to rise). Its thinness, too,

is a reminder of the meagerness of the fare of the dispossessed, the poor, and the outcasts of society.

During the ceremony Jews also eat bitter herbs, which recall the bitterness of the years of oppression under Pharaoh. A sprig of parsley on the table is a survival of the prehistoric days when Passover was a festival of spring. A roasted shank of bone serves as an emblem of the Paschal Lamb; and the charoset - a mixture of apples, nuts, raisins, cinnamon and wine - is a symbol of the mortar from which the Israelites made bricks for the Egyptian Pharaohs during their slavery. Each person present must drink four cups of wine; the wine is intended to recall the four divine promises of redemption made by God to the children of Israel, and to remind Jews that, despite the bitterness of exile, there is sweetness in the word of God and his teachings. The Last Supper of the New Testament was probably a Seder meal and the Passover matzot and wine were precursors of the Communion wafer and wine (of Christians).

The Passover Seder ceremony follows a special Hebrew prayerbook, the Haggadah, which retells the story of the Exodus in prayer, song and parable.

The ceremony is one that strongly emphasizes the participation of young children in Jewish ceremonial and communal life, for it is the youngest child who asks the Four Questions, the answers to which explain the difference between Passover night and all other nights, and the meaning of this holiday for the Jewish people.

The Seder has survived in the Jewish home through every exigency of history. For our own day Passover and its message of freedom retains its importance. Jews behind the Iron Curtain still long for their "Exodus from slavery." We who enjoy freedom cannot afford to forget that others are still enslaved. On May 7 the Los Angeles Jewish Community will have the Israel Independence Day Celebration and Solidarity Walk. Please join in the celebration of Passover and Israel Independence Day.

-Rabbi Jerry Fisher
Temple Beth Torah

(The editors extend to Rabbi Fisher and to the congregation of Temple Beth Torah their thanks for the time and trouble to provide the informative letter appearing here.)

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NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

County Supervisor Johnny Johnson returned recently from a Sacramento conference dealing with F&G's wide-ranging deer hunting changes. The conference will be followed by another at San Diego, April 28. But just what the state department plans to enact in hunting controls remains unknown until sometime in May.

EXPLAINING LAST WEEK WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN Inyo County's shortest press release on record, officers of the sheriff's and district attorney's offices said in effect that they were withholding facts on a case in deference to the wishes of Judge Verne Summers. Not so, replied the judge. "I don't remember mentioning this case to a soul. Although it would be my preference, there was no direct order on this. I feel sometimes they complicate matters by putting out information, from my vantage point. But everybody looks at it differently. I haven't anything to do with this. Other people do what they want." What started the contradiction? - A press release which raised more questions than it provided answers: "At 4:30 p.m. today an Inyo County teen-ager was arrested for various sex offenses involving a neighborhood child." Period. The judge was pressed further for an elaboration on court-press relations, and was asked if he had complained about press coverage of another recent juvenile sex case (three Inyo boys charged with rape). "I made a comment," said Judge Summers, "that I felt that in my opinion there was more information given out than was necessary. It didn't have any effect on the trial, but it resulted in the thing being blown out of proportion and creating problems in the community." Problems? "There's no question these kids were identified. But then you can't generalize on this stuff. There are cases in the juvenile justice system when it helps if the identification is known. Other cases, not so." At any rate, for whoever it was, and for whatever charges have been filed, the county's most recent young sex offender is scheduled to appear for a jurisdictional hearing this Friday.

WHO ARE INYO COUNTY'S BIGGEST TAXPAYERS? With the tax collections mostly all in last week, the tax office was able to enlighten the hard-pressed private taxpayer on just who carries the heaviest load, although the information did little to ease his aching pocketbook. Topping the county tax assessment list is the DWP with a payment of \$4, 149,338.04, although many in the county see that as small potatoes in comparison to the taxes the county might collect if DWP's properties were improved in private hands. Second on the county list was Union Carbide Company whose mining and industrial plants at Bishop were assessed \$744,467.46. Following closely behind was California Edison which forked over \$620,752.30. Also in the big tax league with the three top-runners: Fred Harvey Company which operates the plush resort at Death Valley; Tenneco Oil Co., a Death Valley mining company; and the Inyo-based Sierra Pacific Airlines, Inc.

THE DEMOCRATS' CONGRESSIONAL HOPEFUL in this district is the virtually-unknown contender,

Bob Sogge of Bakersfield who, like political challengers everywhere, voices the confident claim that he can beat the incumbent, Republican Bill Ketchum. Sogge's "people-to-people" campaign, which got another boost last week in an area-wide mail campaign, claims further that Ketchum has "alienated" a lot of people. Sogge says that his ability to get 3000 signatures on a ballot petition indicates encouragement for the Demo primary. Sogge has yet to make clear to the voters who is backing his campaign as he goes up against Ketchum's well-organized and well-financed (much of it from Houston, Texas, oil companies, two years ago) program which Ketchum recently tied into the Ken Maddy ("I can beat Jerry Brown") gubernatorial race.

MONO LAKE'S GULL AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTORS are not about to rest on their laurels now that they got the National Guard to blast a protective channel for Mono's gull population. Many of the same scientific community members that promoted the safety of the gull rookery are now on a campaign with the Audobon Society to call attention to DWP's continued water diversions that are draining the lake to a dangerously low and environmentally damaging level. They've planned a field trip for their crusading members and interested parties for June 10.

IT'S BEEN A BAD YEAR FOR SKUNKS (or, more accurately, a good one for skunks and a bad one for people), and the county health department is loaded with complaints from people who suffer an occasional whiff of skunk-befouled air. So serious is the increase in skunks and skunk complaints that the county added \$800 to its expensive trapping program - at an estimated \$15 for each capture. For those who would rid their properties of skunks on a do-it-yourself basis, there was this homey tip: Scatter mothballs around and under skunk-infested buildings.

STATEWIDE, THE CONTROVERSIAL JARVIS AMENDMENT seems hell-bent for passage, but not if the League of Women Voters has anything to do with it. In Inyo County, the league stands ready to provide anti-Jarvis speakers for any and all who will listen. The league's argument: Only 18½ % of Inyo's taxes come from private property owners. Who, then, would benefit most from a Jarvis victory? - The big taxpayers, DWP, Cal Edison, etc., says the League. But many of Inyo's "18½ %" remained either unconvinced or uncaring; recent tax burden increases, to their way of thinking, called for drastic measures.

THE TELEVISED MEDIA IS NOT EXACTLY THE BATTLE-ground for Inyo's low-key political campaigns, but it will do what it can. Susan Wethern of Bishop Cable TV, Ltd., Channel 12, will offer free advertising time to the Third District Supervisorial candidates, April 25. The candidates will be restricted to a page of copy to sell their messages. The page, or poster, will be flashed before the viewers once as the mini-media campaign gets underway in April, and then again just before the June 6 election.

WATER ISSUE, Continued

The county administrator, somewhat shocked over the unexpected turn of events, added that "...I don't know. Possibly, they're playing games, but we have to play along until it becomes obvious. They have a cumbersome situation to deal with. They have to satisfy the water and power commissioners, city councilmen and the mayor, and the city attorneys."

But at least one Los Angeles news source who has dealt with the department for several years told the news service he was less optimistic. "They don't have to please anyone but themselves," he said.

Even as the department cast gloom over the water management plan, there were developments - another pall of gloom - in other areas of city-county relations. In a matter of two weeks, DWP announced more bad news for the colonials in Inyo:

* DWP arrogantly moved ahead with its plan to install water meters here, in spite of negative reaction in Inyo,

* Told the valley ranchers that DWP will no longer allow them five-year leases on grazing land, and "until the litigation is settled" will cut the lease agreements to one year,

* Admitted that a proposal to sell some

properties here may depend on dropping the county's lawsuits.

Whether the DWP's actions, seen as punitive to many in the county, will serve to strengthen the DWP position, or further stiffen county determination, was still to be seen.

The refusal to sign the long-sought agreement came after months of meetings between the county and DWP with representatives of the Department of Water Resources and the attorney general. It appeared last week that agreement had been reached. But the DWP representatives were at no pains to make things easy. After the refusal, the water and power commissioners met to begin work on their own document.

Further confusing the issue(s) were contradictory statements by Commissioner Paul Lane. He assured Smith that he "suspected" that a proposed lot sales program was being held up by the city's attorneys because of the litigation in state courts. But a day later Lane told a reporter that the sale hold-up "has nothing to do with the county's lawsuit."

Lane also said that the installation of water meters will probably be decided by the commission in a couple of weeks; this, despite the fact that the now-postponed water agreement examines the impact of water meters in the valley.

As for the water metering program, the county's special counsel, Tony Rossman, made no effort to soften his feelings about that. At mid-week he flatly stated: "We don't yet know the effect of the meters. But the commercial meters were not installed to conserve water, but to drive up the costs artificially. We really don't know enough, but DWP's performance at this point gives them the opportunity to show good faith by recognizing the relation between the metering program and the water agreement."

Once again, it became a wait-and-see matter for the Owens Valley, but few here held any hope that DWP will make any moves to accommodate the rebellious colonials.

NO "WILLFUL SPILL"

TRACING THE ACID

THE LAHONTAN BOARD WILL TAKE THE UNION CARBIDE CASE TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

CHARGING THAT UNION CARBIDE'S MOST RECENT acid spill into Pine Creek amounts to a violation of a court order issued on its earlier mishap, a Lahontan water quality control engineer this week will turn the entire issue over to the state attorney general.

Engineer Bob Dodds said his letter will contain elements of Union Carbide's own report which freely admitted and carefully detailed how sulfuric acid had escaped from tanks into a containment area that somehow failed to "contain," and made its way into Pine Creek, killing fish, discoloring the water and enraging many of Union Carbide's downstream neighbors. Following a similar mishap several months ago, a court had issued a cease and desist order against the plant. Dodds said that if in fact the company is found in violation, it could be "liable for fines of up to \$10,000 for each day of acid discharge," and if investigation indicates a "negligent" discharge, perhaps as much as \$25,000 a day.

Dodds said that his office received from Union Carbide last week a detailed report on just what happened in the latest incident, but that the attorney general will have to make any legal estimates of the case.

"It wasn't a willful spill," said Dodds, "but I don't know if it's considered 'negligent' or not." What had happened? The company report said acid leaked from aboveground tanks into the containment area, then out of that to a paved millsite and into a sump; then to a pipeline and into a tailings channel, through another pipe, over some land and into the creek. A final irony: It all happened in the midst of a U.C. public accident prevention campaign.

ROCKEFELLER STUDY GETS UNDERWAY

As the county rehashed its quarrels with the city of Los Angeles, a much broader and comprehensive look at the ongoing issue was getting underway, thanks to a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.

The governor's director of research resigned his state office and last week cleaned out his capitol desk to begin his historical study. Former Governor's Aide Bill Kahrl told NEWS-LETTER that "The principal thing that fascinates me is the anomaly of the federal system; to have one public entity (DWP) own another (Inyo County), and to see how it performs with this responsibility."

Kahrl said that "With the Owens Valley project, there is a drama of events involved." He and his researchers will examine the historical events that came out of the installation of the first aqueduct up to present DWP-county relations.

The grant-funded study, which will be published by a major university, may have considerable impact on the issues.

APRIL 17th 1978

ABUSERS, Continued

the child who makes his play for attention in the presence of a hostile adult who stands constantly ready to vent his anger.

Somewhere in the chain-reaction of hereditary abuse, the chain must be broken. What, it was asked, are some of the remedies and preventions?

Says Needham: "Counselling helps if you can use enough force. At first, the patients are angry and embarrassed. The therapist must work with this resistance to get to the bottom of it - and that's where you find guilt."

First, however, the cases must come to light. "Wife beatings are seldom reported, but as women look more at themselves as human beings instead of property, the reports are increasing. We have a woman's consciousness-raising group that meets weekly, and wives are no longer buying beatings."

And how about the other side?

Sometimes the men are provoked, although rarely will beating be found excusable on that basis. Verbal abuse by wives often ends in a frustration that prompts physical abuse in retaliation.

Recent studies show that men are the victims of domestic quarrels as often as women. Sociologist Richard Gelles claims that "Men and women have always been equal victims in family violence. Fifty percent of the killings are men. Fifty percent are women. That hasn't changed in at least 50 years."

Wives usually strike out at their mates after a verbal assault from the husband; here

again, the mouth precedes the fist. More provocative, however, is the case of the unfaithful husband. Needham says he's working on a case of husband abuse now. "No man will readily tell about this. The *macho* image is too strong."

"Three-fourths of the people I see have marital problems. Marriage is the first relationship that reveals emotional disturbances for most people." And it is out of this family complex that child abuse is born. "Child abuse doesn't happen in a vacuum. Marriage problems can spawn the abuse, and it's usually the wife who is involved. She spends most of the time with the children. She may feel alone, neglected, caged in. It is the wife who is most commonly arrested."

Formed last summer in Inyo County is the Child Abuse Council. Little-known, little publicized, the council works toward an understanding of the abuse problem and its causes. For now, "communication" is a priority - between doctors, health workers, schools and enforcement agencies.

Until more - much more - is known, however, it is unlikely that the social workers and psychologists will be finding anything much beyond that already well-known and recorded. They are seeking, after all, no less than that which the seers and sages have always sought: the understanding of why one person wishes to destroy another.

Meanwhile, there is another Biblical precedent: "And the sins of the fathers shall be visited even unto the fourth...generations."

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